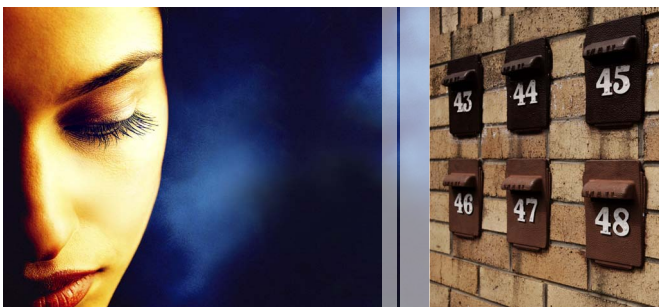


Start Safely Subsidy



Will I still be eligible if I get other housing assistance?

The subsidy can be provided with other Housing NSW private rental assistance products/services which include:

- Rentstart Bond Loan
- Tenancy Facilitation
- Tenancy Guarantee
- Private Rental Brokerage Service.

Are all your questions answered?

If all your questions have not been answered in this brochure:

- contact your local Housing NSW office
- call 1300 HOUSING (1300 468 746)
- visit the Housing NSW website
www.housing.nsw.gov.au



**Family &
Community Services**
Housing NSW

223–239 Liverpool Road
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**Family &
Community Services**
Housing NSW

Start Safely Subsidy



Start Safely Subsidy



What is Start Safely?

Start Safely is a subsidy to provide short to medium term financial help to women and women with children who have experienced domestic or family violence so they can secure private rental accommodation and do not have to return to the violent situation.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible to receive a rent subsidy, you should:

- be escaping domestic or family violence,
- be homeless or at risk of being homeless,
- be eligible for social housing,
- be able to demonstrate that you will be able to afford the private market rent after the subsidy period ends,
- be willing to receive support services, where relevant.

Start Safely is not intended for people with long-term support needs.

Start Safely Subsidy

How will it work?

You will need to complete an application for Housing Assistance form. Your application will then be assessed to determine if Start Safely is suitable for you.

If you are approved to receive Start Safely you will need to find an affordable rental property. Subsidised rents will be available to approved applicants from Housing NSW, for up to 24 months if required.

Where do I apply

You can apply for housing assistance at any Housing NSW office or with a community housing provider participating in Housing Pathways.

What is the subsidy level?

The subsidy is calculated according to your income. An applicant receiving Start Safely pays all of their Commonwealth Rent Assistance entitlement and 25 percent of the rest of their income as rent. Housing NSW pays the balance as a subsidy directly to the real estate agent or landlord.

How will I know a property is affordable?

The Start Safely subsidy will only be approved on a private rental property that is considered affordable and within your financial means. An affordable property means that you will not be paying more than 50 percent of your income on top of Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

Start Safely Subsidy



How long is the subsidy paid for?

Initially the subsidy will be paid for three months, and can be paid for up to 24 months (the maximum subsidy period). Your need for the subsidy will be reviewed quarterly.

Is there an income test?

To receive Start Safely you must be eligible for social housing. Income for Start Safely purposes will include Commonwealth Rental Assistance even if you have not yet applied for or receive this form of income support. Start Safely may continue to be paid if your income increases during the subsidy period. If this is the case, please contact your local Housing NSW office to update your income details.

Is there an assets test?

You can receive the subsidy if you have assets but cannot access them in the short-to-medium term because of circumstances beyond your control. For example you might have an interest in the family home but the Family Court has ordered that the property cannot be sold pending court proceedings.